United Nations A/68/912–S/2014/433

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 June 2014
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 110
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 23 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

On Friday, 20 June 2014, the village of Hurrah in the Hama countryside was the target of a terrorist operation. Armed terrorist groups detonated a truck that had been packed with a vast amount of explosives, estimated to weigh approximately three tons, killing 35 civilians, some of whom were children and women, and injuring 50 others, some of whom are in critical condition. The explosion also destroyed a large number of homes and buildings in the village. On Thursday, 19 June 2014, the Nuzhah neighbourhood of Homs was the target of another attack by terrorists, who detonated a car bomb in a popular market located at a busy intersection. The explosion killed 6 civilians and injured 40 others and caused material damage to stores and vehicles.

These two new terrorist attacks are part of a series of random terrorist attacks against innocent civilians in all Syrian governorates. Civilians have been the victims of terrorist bombings, mortar attacks and other acts of terrorism committed by criminal gangs that are supported by States from the region and beyond. Those States are providing the terrorists with material and logistical support and political and media cover, even in international forums.

My country has unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism, without distinction. It reaffirms its support for efforts to counter terrorism in Iraq and to stand up to the threat of *takfirist*, Wahhabist terrorism, which thrives on radical fatwas that call for the dissemination of rancour and hatred in our societies and that depict terrorism in certain countries as purportedly being popular revolutions. Those States that support terrorism in Syria and the region should take heed of past events and experiences and understand the growing threat represented by the escalation of terrorism, which shall transcend the States of the region and reach every corner of the world, including, in particular, those States that harbour and support terrorists.

Please recycle

Terrorism is one and the same, regardless of where or when it occurs, and respects no boundaries.

The growing threat of terrorism in Syria and its recent escalation in Iraq requires a concerted international effort to counter it, without discrimination or double standards. The rise in terrorism also calls into question the credibility of the international counter-terrorism effort and the commitment to implement United Nations resolutions, including those of the Security Council, concerning counter-terrorism, the latest of which is resolution 2161 (2014). In that resolution, the Council calls on States to shoulder their responsibility to counter terrorism and to refrain from providing terrorist groups with material, moral and logistical support. Now, more than ever, the international community must demonstrate just how serious it is about sending a stern message to terrorists, and the States supporting them, that acts of terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances or for any reason, and that supporting terrorism will have serious consequences for its sponsors, all States of the region and the entire world. It is no longer acceptable that certain States members of the Security Council should be able to apply double standards with regard to condemning acts of terrorism. They have done so before, for the sake of narrow political interests and at the expense of the lives of innocent Syrians and their suffering. Syria calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to condemn clearly and strongly these crimes and take the measures required to hold accountable the perpetrators and those States and Powers, from the region and outside it, that stand behind them and have taken to boasting of their support for the terrorist groups that are currently wreaking havoc in Syria and the region.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative